

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03558 261113Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 DHA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /086 W
-----068482 261246Z /44

R 260946Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1454
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG POUCH

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CZ, SW

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING CZECH EMBASSY OFFERS TO CZECH
COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN OF "NORMALIZATION" PROCEDURES

1. THE SWEDISH MEDIA INCLUDING TELEVISION ARE GIVING CONSIDER-
ABLE PUBLICITY TO A REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION CAMPAIGN
BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE CZECH EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM WITH THE
CZECH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN, WHICH NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY
4,000. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE EMBASSY IS CONTACTING CZECHS
INDIVIDUALLY AND INVITING THEM TO "NORMALIZE" THEIR RELATIONS
WITH THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY BY VISITING THE EMBASSY AND FILLING
OUT ONE OR MORE DOCUMENTS. THE STORIES ADD THAT BY FILLING
OUT AND SIGNING SUCH FORMS, ONE MAY RECEIVE AN "AMNESTY" FROM
THE PRAGUE GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY OTHER REQUIREMENT APPARENTLY
IS TO PAY A SERIES OF FEES, REPORTED TO TOTAL BETWEEN 7,00 AND
10,000 SWEDISH CROWNS, TO THE CZECH EMBASSY.

2. THE CITED WRITTEN APPLICATIONS CONTAIN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
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ABOUT THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES IN SWEDEN AND RELATIVES IN CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA, BUT, AS WELL, CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT FROM THOSE WHO
SIGN THE DOCUMENT TO REFRAIN FROM CRITICIZING CZECHOSLOVAKIA
OR ITS GOVERNMENT. THE PRESS ATTACHE AT THE CZECH EMBASSY HAS
EXPLAINED TO THE PRESS THAT THE EMBASSY IS MERELY FOLLOWING
INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM PRAGUE AND THAT THE REGISTRATION
PROCEDURE IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY. THE ATTACHE EXPLAINED THAT

TO APPLY THE CZECH IMMIGRANTS MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY AT THE
CZECH EMBASSY. HE REFRAINED FROM FURTHER COMMENT.

3. MFA, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HAS BEGUN AN INVESTIGATION,
BEGINNING WITH A COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF THE EMBASSY'S FORMS,
TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PROCEDURES ACCORD WITH THE SWEDISH
LEGAL CODE. AN MFA SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EVEN
IF LEGAL, "IT IS A VERY UNPLEASANT BUSINESS". SHOULD THE MFA
DECIDE THE ACTION TO BE ILLEGAL, THREE STEPS ARE POSSIBLE:
(A) A STATEMENT TO THE CZECH EMBASSY HERE TO INDICATE ITS
ILLEGALITY; (B) TO CALL IN THE CZECH AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIM
PERSONALLY OF ITS ILLEGALITY; (C) A PUBLIC BRANDING OF THE PRO-
CEDURE AS ILLEGAL BY FOREIGN MINISTER SODER.

4. WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE MFA INVESTIGATION,
FOREIGN MINISTER SODER INSERTED THE FOLLOWING WARNING TO THE
CZECH EMBASSY IN A SPEECH ON AUGUST 25 TO A CENTER PARTY
CONFERENCE:

"WE FEEL A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING REFUGEES IN
SWEDEN FROM DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRESSURE FROM THE AUTHORITIES
IN THEIR FORMER HOME COUNTRIES. UNFORTUNATELY, IT SOMETIMES
HAPPENS THAT FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN DIFFERENT WAYS USE PRESSURE
AGAINST REFUGEES IN SWEDEN. A CURRENT EXAMPLE OF THIS ARE
THE ACTIVITIES AT PRESENT ENGAGED IN BY THE CZECH EMBASSY.
WE REGARD EVERY MEASURE WHICH CAN BE REGARDED AS PRESSURE FROM
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THE EMBASSY'S SIDE WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS. SWEDISH SOCIETY
COMPLETELY SUPPORTS THE REFUGEES' DEMANDS FOR INTEGRITY AND
FREEDOM."

5. COMMENT: COINCIDENTALLY, MEDIA PUBLICITY FOCUSED ON THE
CZECH EMBASSY CAMPAIGN ONLY A DAY OR TWO AFTER A SERIES OF PROTEST
DEMONSTRATIONS ON AUGUST 21 COMMEMORATING THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE SWEDISH MEDIA
HAVE LONG DWELLED ON THE CZECH REGIME AS AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT
OF OPPROBRIUM AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR PUBLICITY
UNTIL THE MFA MAKES A DECISION ON THE LEGALITY OF THE REGIS-
TRATION PROCEDURE.

PERRY

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